

CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Return to the Posts from the Kindel Training Grounds

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 5 November 1954REFERENCES 25X1PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

1. On 10 October 1954, approximately 120 trucks, 12 x 122-mm field howitzers, 8 x 160-mm mortars and 7 AT guns were seen at the Kindel training grounds.

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2. Military shipments loaded at the Eisenach railroad station on 15 October included:

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an engineer unit with approximately 15 trucks

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 10 pontoons and approximately 350 soldiers wearing construction engineer insignia,¹

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and a tank unit with 10 T-34/65 tanks

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 5 SP guns, 18 trucks and on 12 boxcars, approximately 300 soldiers and ammunition.² The two trains left toward the east.

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3. At 1500 on 13 October, a shipment of 37 trucks, 1 ambulance, 1 truck with timber and 18 boxcars with approximately 450 soldiers wearing black-bordered black armbands left Gotha toward the east.¹

4. On 19 October, the following troops and materiel, which came from the Kindel training grounds, were loaded in Eisenach:

500 soldiers, which left eastward at 2115. ²

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SECRET

- 2 -

25X1

5. The Stockhausen-Langensalza road was no longer blocked at the Kindel training grounds on 20 October. The cantonment buildings on either side of the road about 5 km southwest of Grossenbehringen were apparently vacant. Four JS tanks and approximately 25 trucks were seen at a parking lot south of the road. At 1300, a shipment of approximately 12 x 100 or 85-mm AT guns, 20 trucks, 1 prime mover and 10 to 15 boxcars with soldiers was seen east of Erfurt. The train was headed toward the east. 25X1
6. At 0030 on 11 October, a shipment of 7 T-34/85 tanks [redacted] 8 motor vehicles and approximately 19 boxcars with approximately 400 soldiers passed through Erfurt and proceeded toward Sangerhausen.² On 18 October, a train with 12 x 57-mm AT guns, 4 x 120-mm mortars, 15 to 17 trucks and 27 boxcars with approximately 700 soldiers was seen in Gotha. The train came from the direction of Eisenach and was headed toward the east. 25X1
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7. The following units arrived in Naumburg between 7 and 19 October: 25X1
7 and 8 October. An advance detail of 300 to 400 infantrymen in the Bluecher Kaserne (8381). [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1
11 October. An advance detail of approximately 200 artillerymen in the Hubertus Kaserne (8582). [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1
16 and 18 October. Thirty new two-axle trucks [redacted] in the Hindenburg Kaserne (8383). 25X1
19 October. At 1100, 30 trucks and radio trucks [redacted] and approximately 300 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and red epaulets in the Hindenburg Kaserne. The unit was detrained at the Ostbahnhof. At 1000 heavy engineer equipment [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] in the Hubertus Kaserne. The equipment was unloaded at the main railroad station.¹ 25X1
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8. Between 1 and 16 October, the Infanterie Kaserne (8521) in Weissenfels was occupied by approximately 1,000 soldiers, two thirds of which wore black-bordered red epaulets; the others wore red-bordered black epaulets. On 5 October, 1 truck with 1 x 57-mm AT gun was seen in the yard. On 13 October, 10 soldiers from the installation practiced the construction of telephone lines near Klemberg (hill). 25X1
9. Between 1 and 16 October, the Pionier Kaserne (8522) was occupied by an estimated 800 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. On 12 and 16 October, 2 T-34/85 tanks were seen in the yard. Local residents stated that elements of the units from Weissenfels were still at the Kindel training grounds in mid-October.
10. At noon on 6 October, an engineer practice was held on the Saale River, in the Schulpforta section, near Bad Koesen. Approximately 100 soldiers constructed a bridge with TMP bridge building equipment across the swollen river. Twelve to 15 trucks and several pneumatic rafts were seen on the east bank of the river.¹

SECRET

SECRET

- 3 -

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1. Comment. It is believed that major elements of the 67th Engr Bn of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div returned to their winter quarters in 2 shipments from the Kindel training grounds, on 13 and 15 October, although no pertinent information has so far been received from Naumburg. See paragraph 7. The engineer exercise in the Schulpforta Saale-section possibly involved elements of the unidentified Engr Bn of the XXIX Gds Mtz Rifle Corps, equipment of which was returned to Naumburg on 19 October. In this connection, mention is made of a previous report

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according to which an engineer colonel with an infantry detail hurriedly entrained more than 80 half pontoons and many plankings from the Hubertus Kaserne at the Ostbahnhof in Naumburg possibly for the abovementioned exercise on the Saale River. The location of the corps engineer battalion has been undetermined since the fall of 1952. The fact that the 90 half pontoons came from the Hubertus Kaserne and that heavy engineer equipment returned to this installation on 19 October tends to indicate that, in addition to the 67th Engr Bn, the corps engineer battalion is also stationed there.

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2. Comment. According to tank turret numbers, elements of the 17th Gds Mtz Tank Regt of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div returned on 15 and 19 October. No pertinent information has so far been received from Weissenfels. the second shipment on 19 October may have carried tanks of the 36th Tank Regt of the 20th Gds Mecz Div or the 21st Gds Mecz Div. the train on 11 October mentioned in paragraph 6 may have also carried a tank unit of the 21st Gds Mecz Div which returned to Halle.

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3. Comment. The retransfer from the Kindel training grounds of units of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div and elements of the corps troops of the XXIX Gds Mtz Rifle Corps started about 7 October with the departure of advance details which were followed by the bulk of the units after 13 October. According to observations in paragraph 5, training activities at the training grounds discontinued about 20 October. Elements were still stationed at the training area at that time. The units from the Naumburg and Weissenfels posts were apparently distributed in the installations concerned as they were in the spring of 1954.

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